Investigators Trailing Columnist

By Jack Anderson

The White House, in its effort to discredit us and whitewash the International Telephone and Telegraph scandal, is conducting a massive undercover campaign.

The manpower has been drawn from the White House, Justice Department, Republican National Committee and the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

Even the Justice Department's Internal Security Division, which is supposed to investigate spies and saboteurs, has been put on our trail.

Dozens of government gumshoes, presidential aides and political flunkies have been assigned to investigate us, to prepare attacks on us and to plant stories in the press against us.

ITT has also retained the world's most famous and formidable private investigating firm, Intertel, to assist with the investigation. This is the same outfit that broke Swiss bank secrecy and exposed Clifford Irving's phony autobiography of billionaire Howard Hughes.

Intertel submits its investigative reports to ITT, which has made them available to the White House. Presidential aides, in turn, have fed the material to Republican senators for use against us.

Incriminating Memo

Here's the incredible, behind-the-scenes story:

At first, the strategy was to discredit Dita Beard, the salty-tongued ITT lobbyist, who wrote the incriminating memo suggesting there had been a link between the settlement of ITT's antitrust cases and a commitment from ITT to help finance the Republican Convention.

Her physician, Dr. Victor L. Liszka, conferred with Justice Department officials Harlington Wood, Jr., and John T. Duffner on the eve of his appearance at the Senate hearing. He testified that Mrs. Beard had told him she wrote the memo but was "mad and disturbed" at the time.

When his tack failed, the President's men tried to peddle the idea that we had conspired with Dita Beard to concoct the damaging memo. This was planted with Sen. Marlow Cook, (R-Ky.), who rushed out with a statement questioning "the veracity of Anderson's account of how he obtained the memorandum and perhaps even on the origin and content of the memorandum itself."

One of the Justice Department's counterspies, John Martin, Internal Security's Analysis and Evaluation chief, tried to establish a link between Dita Beard and us. Intertel's president Robert Peloquin and his chief gumshoe, Ed Mullin, also worked on this angle.

Their "evidence" was routed through the White House to Senator Cook. This, too, backfired.

Then began the belated campaign to reverse the doctor's testimony and to persuade Mrs. Beard to change her story. An active and ardent California Republican, David W. Fleming, appeared as Mrs. Beard's attorney. He held a series of meetings with top Republicans and ITT officers in Washington, then issued a notarized statement signed by the poor woman claiming the memo was a forgery.

White House Warriors

This latest "evidence," significantly, was released in Washington by Senate Republican leader Hugh Scott. Fleming also made statements to the press that sounded more as if he were representing the Nixon administration than Dita Beard.

Meanwhile, President Nixon's new deputy communications director, Ken W. Clawson, has been handling press strategy. He has advised Senator Cook and contacted newsmen in an attempt to promote stories against us.

Two other White House aides, Jonathan Rose and George Crawford, also slipped around to Sen. Norris Cotton's office with a draft speech for the New Hampshire Republican to deliver on the ITT affair. Senators Barry Goldwater and Paul Fannin, both Arizona Republicans, also delivered speeches that were prepared by the Republican National Committee.

Army Heart

It isn't often that we can report a heartwarming human story about the Army. But such is the case of Captain and Mrs. David Kelley and their four-year-old son, David, Jr.

Since age one, young David has had a form of cancer known as Wilm's tumor. Until now, he has received excellent treatment at Walter Reed Army Hospital. But recently his father, presently stationed at Ft. Lee, Va., was notified he would have to leave the service because of personnel cuts.

The family could not afford continued medical treatment, so they petitioned the Army to permit David to continue receiving medical care from the military.

The Kelleys feel the Army is at least partially responsible for their son's condition. Mrs. Kelley was ten weeks pregnant with David when she had an automobile accident. She was repeatedly X-rayed at an Army hospital and some doctors think the X-rays could have had something to do with David's disease.

Recently, Acting Secretary Kenneth BeLieu ruled favorably on the Kelleys' petition. It is good to be reminded once in a while that the Army has a heart.

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